

CPYRGHT

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(CHINA) CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON--SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, A TOP CONGRESSIONAL WEAPONS

EXPERT, PREDICTED TODAY THAT COMMUNIST CHINA WILL BE ABLE TO START DEPLOYING NUCLEAR-ARMED INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES "IN THE EARLY 1970S."

THE WASHINGTON DEMOCRAT IS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE'S WEAPONS SUBCOMMITTEE. HIS PREDICTION WOULD MAKE MAINLAND CHINA A THREAT TO THE CONTINENTAL U.S. ABOUT FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE ESTIMATES ADVANCED BY DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT S. MCNAMARA.

IN ADDITION JACKSON SAID HE THINKS CHINA COULD START DEPLOYING MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES--POSING A THREAT TO SUCH NATIONS AS INDIA AND JAPAN--"IN THE NEAR FUTURE." FOR "NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL" FARTHER FROM THEIR SHORES, JACKSON SAID, THE CHINESE COULD DEPLOY NON-BALLISTIC AIR BREATHING MISSILES, AS THE RUSSIANS DID, ON BOARD SUBMARINES.

MCNAMARA TESTIFIED EARLY LAST YEAR THAT NO "SIGNIFICANT" NUCLEAR THREAT FROM RED CHINA IS EXPECTED ANY EARLIER THAN "THE 1975--1980 PERIOD." HE HAS SINCE REPEATED THAT ESTIMATE. JACKSON'S COMMENTS WERE MADE TO NEWSMEN AFTER A MEETING OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE WITH CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS, BUT THE SENATOR'S COMMENTS WERE NOT REPRESENTED AS VIEWS ADVANCED BY HELMS.

"I THINK ONE MIGHT SAY THAT THE COMMUNIST CHINESE ARE DOING QUITE WELL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM AND A DELIVERY SYSTEM TO IMPLEMENT IT," JACKSON SAID, ADDING THAT: "THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY ON OUR PART OR THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE TRYING TO AVERT A NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE."

"I AM NOT TRYING TO BE AN ALARMIST," JACKSON SAID. HE COMMENTED HOWEVER, THAT THE MOST RECENT OF THE FIVE NUCLEAR TESTS CONDUCTED BY THE COMMUNIST CHINESE HAVE COME AT A "TIME OF GREAT GOVERNMENTAL INSTABILITY" AS SHOWN BY ACTIVITIES OF THE RED GUARDS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THE MAINLAND.

NUCLEAR TESTS CONCURRENT WITH SUCH EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTABILITY "HARDLY GIVES ONE A FEELING OF SECURITY," JACKSON SAID.

HE SAID HE THINKS THE CHINESE HAVE NO SHORTAGE OF NUCLEAR RAW MATERIALS AND NO SHORTAGE OF EXPERTS TO CONCEIVE AND DESIGN WEAPONS. IF THERE IS A SHORTAGE, HE SAID, IT IS IN PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND THE RELATED EXPERTS.

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